

ORLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- The fastest growing portion of the population has been those aged 65 and over, followed by those between the ages of 45 and 64. The town thus appears to be attracting more persons of retirement and pre-retirement ages.
- Orland's economy is closely tied to that of the region, most people commute to jobs. Although Orland has consistently maintained a higher median income and lower unemployment rate than Hancock County, economic conditions in Orland have moved closer to the Hancock County average since 1992.
- The number of homes in Orland increased by about 50 percent between 1970 and 1990. While there was a 33 percent increase in year-round homes, the number of second homes nearly doubled. Another 155 year-round homes are expected by the year 2005.
- Between 1990 and 1995 tax spending increased at an after-inflation rate of 25 percent. The largest increase has been school spending, which increased at an after-inflation rate of 77 percent in ten years. State education subsidies have increased at half the rate of town school spending.
- While Orland still has a relatively low volume of traffic, it has increased over the past 20 years. The most hazardous intersections are at the blinking light at Route 1 and Upper Falls Road, Route 1 and Leach's Point Road and Routes 1 and 15.
- The fire station needs some minor repairs and more substantial improvements are needed to the school facilities. The town office has several major deficiencies.
- One of the key fresh water resources in Orland are its many great ponds. The DEP has rated Craig Pond as having an "outstanding" water quality. While there is the potential for water quality problems in other lakes and ponds from phosphorus build-up, there is still time to prevent such problems from occurring.
- Orland has one of the few known locations in Maine for the ram's-head lady slipper plant, a member of the orchid family. There are also several high value waterfowl and wading bird habitats in town.
- State records list 34 pre-historic sites in Orland, these include Indian burial grounds and shellfish middens.
- Marine-related facilities in Orland are limited. There is one boat launching ramp and it is in poor condition. Since the river channel is relatively shallow, navigation is restricted to small craft.